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17 July 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Dominican Republic: Moderate rebel elements are attempting to head off growing Communist strength in the rebel movement.

Leaders of the leftist Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) have expressed their concern to US embassy officials over the active role the Communists are taking in the rebel movement and have stressed the need for an early political solution to the crisis.

In an apparent effort to facilitate negotiations, the PRD executive committee on 12 July sent Garcia Godoy a list of suggested names for cabinet positions in the government he is attempting to form. Proposed candidates, however, ranged from responsible persons to a Communist party member and the list demonstrated the usual naiveté or poor judgment shown by the PRD in selecting leaders.

[The PRD and other moderate rebel elements are apparently attempting to thwart efforts by rebel extremists to provoke renewed fighting. It was reported earlier this week that the PRD was considering taking over that part of the rebel zone now dominated by the pro-Castro Fourteenth of June Political Group (APCJ) and the Dominican Popular Movement (MPD). This would, however, be a rather formidable task in view of the well-armed strength of these two Communist groups.]

[Bolstering the leftist extremists, who reportedly signed a pact this week to continue the fighting, was

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many weapons which had been hidden in the northern part of Santo Domingo are being smuggled back into the rebel zone. [redacted] the MPD is prepared to send 25 well-trained guerrillas to the interior, possibly to San Pedro de Macoris/ [redacted]

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*Greece: [The political situation remains tense following swearing in of the new cabinet.]

[Although political shifting continues and the strength of the rival factions is still unclear, the remaining 12 members of premier-designate Athanasiadis-Novas' Center Union (EK) cabinet were sworn in late yesterday. Seven members of the new government served in the Papandreou administration. [redacted]

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[redacted] as of late 16 July the new premier may have had the support of 70 of the 170 EK parliamentary deputies, but the numbers fluctuate by the hour. Newspapers supporting the conservative opposition National Radical Union party, which has 99 deputies in parliament, have indicated their support for the new government.]

[Press reports state that several persons were injured in street incidents in Athens yesterday, but a scheduled demonstration by university youths was broken up by police. The arrival of an additional two battalions of troops continues the military buildup in the capital.]

Meanwhile, the Papandreou forces are apparently girding for action and chances for a shift in favor of the former premier cannot be ruled out. He is known to command heavy support among the electorate and reports of demonstrations supporting him in his confrontation with the King are widespread. [Should Papandreou be successful in unseating the new government, the future of the monarchy will become a major issue in the election which could result.]

The Communist-front United Democratic Left (EDA) party has pledged its support for Papandreou and is calling for new elections. [Although public gatherings have been banned, both the EK and EDA press are urging attendance at a mass rally scheduled for tonight.] [redacted]

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Common Market: [Prospects of an early lessening of the Common Market crisis seem poor.]

[The French foreign minister's talks this week with his Belgian and Dutch counterparts apparently produced no new leads. West German Foreign Minister Schroeder has told an EEC Commission official that, in Bonn's view, urgent efforts to resolve the "Brussels difficulties" are neither practicable nor desirable. Speaking before committees of the Italian Parliament, Foreign Minister Fanfani stated that the 26-27 July EEC Council session would not try to resolve substantive issues but rather ascertain whether a resumption of discussions at the community level was possible]

[The French boycott of community activities, meanwhile, is by no means complete. French attendance of only certain EEC working groups is probably intended to maintain progress on and preserve French interests in "old" activities while assuring that decisions on new activities are prevented. However, questions are arising--the recent US call for an international conference on monetary reform is one--which may tend to increase pressure on France to extend its participation in community forums]

[High-level French officials still seem uncertain as to De Gaulle's real motives in the present crisis. The head of the Foreign Ministry's economic section has blamed the Italians for causing the breakup of the 30 June council session because of domestic considerations. He nevertheless went on to indicate that the root cause of the controversy was the community's entering a new phase where "serious political issues" were raised for the first time.]

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NOTES

Congo (Brazzaville): The radical Brazzaville regime imposed emergency defense measures on 15 July following a bungled sabotage attempt on power lines serving the capital's radio station and grenade attacks on the homes of two cabinet ministers. [These attacks apparently were perpetrated by ex-president Youlou's Leopoldville-based supporters who have received paracommando training and reportedly have been planning sabotage.] While the increasingly nervous regime seems in no real danger of being overthrown, these incidents will probably add to the rising tensions and could well aid extremist elements in their campaign to eliminate moderates.

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*Venezuela: [The occupation of the Central University in Caracas by government security forces has been postponed indefinitely. The government cancelled the operation because it feared word of its plans had leaked out to leftist elements in the university, and under these circumstances believed that the results of the move would be fruitless and embarrassing. A traditional sanctuary for leftist insurgents, the Central University has been an operating base for heightened terrorist activities in the western part of the city since 12 July.]

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